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BHATIA, AJAY M

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/715,214 | Applicant(s) KUCHAREWSKI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner AJAY BHATIA | Art Unit 2145 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-14,19-33 and 35-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-14,19-33 and 35-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/11 4/7</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see remarks, filed 4/1/2008 and 2/11/2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 under 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Shah.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 30 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Mean plus function language is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 29 and 36-37, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Page 6 line 26 show the present invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 19-33, and 35-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shah (U.S. Patent Application 2001/0013050).

For claim 1, Shah teaches, a method for enabling management of contacts, the method comprising:

- maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list)

- enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list)

- in response to the member defining a group of contacts, creating the group of contacts defined by the member; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, group)

- representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier that may be selected by the member to enable communications to be sent by the member to the group of contacts using multiple different communication modalities; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

- enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying

that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented; (Shah, paragraph 70, select the desired)

receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, by the member of a particular communication modality to be leveraged in sending a particular communication to the group of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 70, select the desired)

receiving an indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented; (Shah, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraph 69, groups)

in response to receiving the indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented:

determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the particular communication modality that the member has selected to be leveraged in sending the particular communication to the group of contacts, and determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member; (Shah, paragraph 69, groups, work colleagues)

and sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate

when using the communication modality selected by the member. (Shah, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraph 69, groups)

For claim 2, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 further comprising enabling the member to send a copy of the group of contacts to a recipient. (Shah, paragraph 75, group field)

For claim 3, Shah teaches, the method of claim 2 further comprising:

receiving a request from the member or the recipient to modify the group; (Shah, paragraph 75, join)

and updating copies of the group held by the member and the recipient to reflect the requested change. (Shah, paragraph 69, add)

For claim 4, Shah teaches, the method of claim 3 further comprising notifying the member and the recipient of the requested change to the group. (Shah, paragraph 73, my groups)

For claim 6, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling

the member to use e-mail or at least one communication modality other than e-mail to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting e-mail or the at least one communication modality other than email to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented. (Shah, paragraph 75, email)

For claim 7, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use instant messaging or at least one communication modality other than instant messaging to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting instant messaging or the at least one communication modality other than instant messaging to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented. (Shah, paragraph 118, msn, paragraph 75, email, paragraph 118, msn)

For claim 8, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to

the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use digital image sharing or at least one communication modality other than digital image sharing to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting digital image sharing or the at least one communication modality other than digital image sharing to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented. (Shah, paragraph 70, fax, paragraph 75, email)

For claim 9, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use an alerting modality that sends alerts and reminders to users or at least one communication modality other than the alerting modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the alerting modality or the at least one communication modality other than the alerting modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented. (Shah, paragraph 118, msn, paragraph 75, email)

For claim 10, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to

the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use a modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one communication modality other than the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one communication modality other than the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented. (Shah, paragraph 73, profile, paragraph 75, email)

For claim 11, Shah teaches, the method of claim 10 wherein enabling the member to use a modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one communication modality other than the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one communication modality other than the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the

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modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented. (Shah, paragraph 73, profile, paragraph 75, email)

For claim 12, Shah teaches, the method of claim 11 wherein enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, an electronic journal modality, or at least one modality other than the electronic journal modality by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, the electronic journal modality, or the at least one modality other than the electronic journal modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented. (Shah, paragraph 70, page, paragraph 75, email)

For claim 13, Shah teaches, the method of claim 11 wherein enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the

modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, an e-mail filtering modality, or at least one modality other than the e-mail filtering modality by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, the e-mail filtering application, or the at least one modality other than the e-mail filtering application to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented. (Shah, paragraph 73, profile, paragraph 75, email)

For claim 14, Shah teaches, the method of claim 11 wherein enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, a modality that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account, or at least one modality other than the modality that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, the modality that enables the specification of parental

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controls over a child account, or the at least one modality other than the modality that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented. (Shah, paragraph 73w privacy, paragraph 75, email)

For claim 19, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member includes:

recognizing that an appropriate identifier to use to address communications to be sent using the particular communication modality selected by the member is not known for a particular contact within the group of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 72, not registered)

and prompting the member for an appropriate identifier to use to address communications to be sent to the particular contact using the particular communication modality selected by the member. (Shah, paragraph 72, field)

For claim 20, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member includes:

recognizing that an appropriate identifier to use to address communications to be sent using the particular commemoration modality selected by the member is not known for a particular contact within the group of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 72, not registered)

and omitting the contact from the group of contacts for the purpose of sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member. (Shah, paragraph 72, field)

For claim 21, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein:

enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts includes enabling the member to use a graphical user interface to specify contacts from the collection of contacts to be included in the group of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 69, group)

and representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier includes:

enabling the member to provide a name for the group of contacts, and representing the group of contacts with the name provided by the member for the group of contacts. (Shah, paragraph 75, group)

For claim 22, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein enabling a member to define a group contacts from among the collection of contacts comprises:

recognizing a set of contacts from the collection of contacts as repeated recipients of communications sent by the member; (Shah, paragraph 109-113, passive, paragraph 75, group)

and enabling the member to define a group containing the set of contacts without actively specifying the set of contacts. (Shah, paragraph 109-113, passive)

For claim 23, Shah teaches, the method of claim 22 wherein recognizing a set of contacts from the collection as repeated recipients of communications sent by a member comprises:

storing communications sent by the member during a period of time; (Shah, paragraph 77, wait)

examining the communications sent by the member during the period of time; (Shah, paragraph 77, unavailable)

and identifying a set of contacts that was sent at least a minimum number of communications by the member during the period of time. (Shah, paragraph 77, unavailable)

For claim 24, Shah teaches, the method of claim 23 wherein storing and examining communications sent by the member during a period of time comprises storing and examining communications sent by the member using multiple different applications. (Shah, paragraph 77, wait)

For claim 25, Shah teaches, the method of claim 22 wherein recognizing a set of contacts from the collection as repeated recipients of communications sent by a member comprises:

- storing a predetermined number of communications sent by the member; (Shah, paragraph 77, wait)

- examining the predetermined number of communications sent by the member; (Shah, paragraph 77)

- and identifying a set of contacts that was sent at least a minimum number of communications out of the predetermined number of communications by the member. (Shah, paragraph 96, polling)

For claim 26, Shah teaches, the method of claim 25 wherein storing and examining the predetermined number of communications sent by the member comprises storing and examining communications sent by the member using multiple different applications. (Shah, paragraph 77, wait)

For claim 27, Shah teaches, the method of claim 22 wherein representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier includes:

- enabling the member to provide a name for the group of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 75, group)

- and representing the group of contacts with the name provided by the member for the group of contacts. (Shah, paragraph 75, group)

For claim 28, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein permissions and preferences of all contacts in the group are the same. (Shah, paragraph 73, security)

For claim 29, Shah teaches, an apparatus comprising a tangible computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a machine result in at least the following:

- maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list)

- enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list)

- in response to the member defining a group of contacts, creating the group of contacts defined by the member; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list)

- representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier that may be selected by the member to enable communications to be sent by the member to the group of contacts using multiple different communication modalities; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

- enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts

is represented; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, by the member of a particular communication modality to be leveraged in sending a particular communication to the group of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

receiving an indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

in response to receiving the indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented:

determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the particular communication modality that the member has selected to be leveraged in sending the particular communication to the group of contacts, and determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

and sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular

communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

For claim 30, Shah teaches, a system for enabling management of contacts comprising:

means for maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list)

means for enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list)

means for creating the group of contacts defined by the member in response to the member defining the group of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups)

means for representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier that may be selected by the member to enable communications to be sent by the member to the group of contacts using multiple different communication modalities; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

means for enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

means for receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, of a particular communication modality to be leveraged in sending a particular communication to the group of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

means for receiving an indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

means for determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the particular communication modality that the member has selected to be leveraged in sending the particular communication to the group of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

means for determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

and means for sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

For claim 31, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein:

representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprises
representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; (Shah, paragraph 69, group)
and enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the unique identifier by which the group is represented. (Shah, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

For claim 32, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 wherein maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprises creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups)

For claim 33, Shah teaches, the method of claim 1 further comprising:

enabling another member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying

that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented; (Shah, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, by the other member of a different communication modality to use to send a different communication to the group of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 75, group)

receiving an indication that the other member has specified that the different communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group is represented; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

in response to receiving the indication that the other member has specified that the different communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented:

determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the different communication modality that the other member has selected to use to send the different communication to the group of contacts, and determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

and sending the different communication to the group of contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member by sending the different

communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the different communication modality selected by the other member. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

For claim 35, Shah teaches, the method of claim 33 wherein the particular communication modality is e-mail and the different communication modality is instant messaging such that:

determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member includes determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using e-mail; (Shah, paragraph 48, recipient)

sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member includes sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using e-mail by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using e-mail; (Shah, paragraph 75, email)

determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using

the different communication modality selected by the other member includes determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using instant messaging; (Shah, paragraph 73, my group)

and sending the different communication to the group of contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member by sending the different communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the different communication modality selected by the other member includes sending the different communication to the group of contacts using instant messaging by sending the different communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using instant messaging. (Shah, paragraph 118, msn)

For claim 36, Shah teaches, the apparatus of claim 29 wherein:

the instructions that when executed by a machine result in representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprise instructions that when executed by a machine result in representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; (Shah, paragraph 75, group)

and the instructions that when executed by a machine result in enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the

communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group is represented include instructions that when executed by a machine result in enabling the member to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the unique identifier by which the group is represented. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

For claim 37, Shah teaches, the apparatus of claim 29 wherein the instructions that when executed by a machine result in maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprise instructions that when executed by a machine result in creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

For claim 38, Shah teaches, the system of claim 30 wherein:

the means for representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprises means for representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

and the means for enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier

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by which the group of contacts is represented to includes means for enabling the member to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the unique identifier by which the group is represented. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

For claim 39, Shah teaches, the system of claim 30 wherein the means for maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprises means for creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

For claim 40, Shah teaches, a method for enabling communications to be sent to multiple contacts, the method comprising:

- accessing, from within an electronic storage, a collection of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list,)

- enabling user identification of a subset of less than all of the collection of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups)

- enabling the user to associate an alias with the subset of contacts for later use in referencing the identified subset of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired)

subsequently enabling the user to specify the alias as a destination address for electronic communications that are to be sent to the subset of contacts using any of at least two different communication modalities; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

processing a first communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using a first one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a first contact within the subset of contacts, sending the first communication to the first contact using the first communication modality; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

and processing a second communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using a second one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a second contact within the subset of contacts, sending the second communication to the second contact using the second communication modality. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

For claim 41, Shah teaches, the method of claim 40 wherein:

processing a first communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using a first one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a first contact within the subset of contacts, sending the first

communication to the first contact using the first communication modality includes processing a first communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using an instant messaging communication modality by, for at least the first contact, sending the first communication to the first contact using the instant messaging communication modality; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

and processing a second communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using a second one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a second contact within the subset of contacts, sending the second communication to the second contact using the second communication modality includes processing a second communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using an email communication modality by, for at least the second contact, sending the second communication to the second contact using the email communication modality. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

For claim 42, Shah teaches, the method of claim 41 wherein the first contact and the second contact are the same such that sending the first communication to the first contact using the first communication modality and sending the second communication to the second contact using the second communication modality includes sending the first and second communications to the same contact. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list,

paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

For claim 43, Shah teaches, the method of claim 41 wherein the first contact and the second contact are different such that sending the first communication to the first contact using the first communication modality and sending the second communication to the second contact using the second communication modality includes sending the first and second communications to different contacts. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

For claim 44, Shah teaches, the method of claim 40 further comprising:

enabling user identification of another subset of less than all of the collection of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

enabling the user to associate another alias with the other subset of contacts for later use in referencing the other subset of contacts; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

subsequently enabling the user to specify the other alias as a destination address for electronic communications that are to be sent to the other subset of contacts using any of the at least two different communication modalities; (Shah,

paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

processing a third communication that specifies the other alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using the first one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a third contact within the other subset of contacts, sending the third communication to the third contact using the first communication modality; (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

and processing a fourth communication that specifies the other alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using the second one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a fourth contact within the other subset of contacts, sending the fourth communication to the fourth contact using the second communication modality. (Shah, paragraph 14, contact list, paragraph 69, groups, paragraph 70, select the desired, paragraphs 121-122, destination)

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See attached Notice of references cited (if appropriate).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay M. Bhatia whose telephone number is (571)-272-

3906. Also any interview requests should be faxed directly to the examiner at (571)-273-3906. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571)272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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